

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

BILL WALKER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4190
FAX: (907) 465-6142

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marc A. Luiken
Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

FROM: Bruce Dale
Acting Director 

DATE: January 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Authorization to take bald eagles during 2015

In 2007 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) removed bald eagles from the list of threatened and endangered species, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BAGEPA) became the primary federal law protecting eagles. In 2009 the FWS published a rule under the BAGEPA authorizing a permit program that allows take of eagles under certain circumstances. The FWS has primary jurisdiction over eagles throughout the United States. However, Alaska also retains management and permitting authority, and eagle take as defined in the BAGEPA requires written authorization from both the FWS and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The DFG, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) recognizes that the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) commonly undertakes projects that are in the public's interest, but also have the potential to take or disturb bald eagles. We further recognize that DOT&PF staff expend considerable effort to minimize effects of projects on eagles and to acquire FWS Eagle Take permits. Because DOT&PF projects already undergo review by the FWS and the public, we have determined that additional review of individual projects by DWC is unnecessary. Consequently, DWC authorizes take or disturbance of bald eagles associated with all projects for which DOT&PF has acquired a FWS permit. This authorization is valid through December 31, 2015 and may be renewed by submitting a request (paper or e-mail) to the DWC, Permits Section at dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov or P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526.